

Specification Amendments:

Page 8, first paragraph:

In the drawings, Fig. 1 shows a prior art clip applier 10 of the type marketed as VCS Clip Applier by Auto Suture Company, Division of U.S. Surgical Corporation of Norwalk, Connecticut. This clip applier is described above and is effective to dispense and apply a small clip (clips not shown) for closure of tissues in microsurgery, from a tip 12 of a stem 14, extending from a handle 16 that the surgeon holds in the hand. As illustrated, the elongated stem 14 is much narrower than the elongated gripping handle 16 and rigidly projects forward from a forward end of the handle 16. A pair of thumb/finger wings 18 are squeezed together by the surgeon when the tip has been correctly placed and a clip is to be applied. Shortcomings of this device are described above, particularly for microsurgery on blood vessels under 2mm ~~on~~ or other very small surgical sites, the clip placement being performed under the microscope; and for endoscopic surgery or other use in narrow, difficult areas.

Page 16, new paragraph following line 16:

button/plunger 82 is pushed down to force hydraulic liquid out of the remote end cylinder 86. This movement of the second piston 98 pushes forward a piston shaft 100, which engages the tail end of a linkage member such as the advancer frame 66 shown. As described previously, this is effective to dispense and crimp a clip from the instrument 10a.

Fig. 10 shows that the second piston 98 has seals 102, which may be annular ridges on a rubber piston. Also, the figure shows fasteners 104 which may be used to secure the proximal end fitting 92 to the tail end of the clip applier handle, and thus the remote actuator can be removable from the clip applier handle, if desired.

Although hydraulic actuation is described above, pneumatic actuation is also possible, with a similar arrangement of piston and cylinder, thumb button, etc., in which case the internal medium of the tubular would be air or other gas.

Actuation of the clip applier can be by foot rather than using a hand operable actuator. The remote actuator can be a foot pedal (not shown), depressed by the person holding the clip applier.